

Claim listing:

1. (Previously Amended) A variable area nozzle comprising:

a plurality of rotatable vanes; each of said vanes is rotatable with respect to a support; each of said vanes includes an interior surface and an exterior surface; each of said surfaces of said vanes includes a crowned contour; and,

each of said vanes interengages another of said vanes sealing said vanes.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim ~~3~~ 1 further comprising a nozzle closer for rotating said vanes toward minimum cross-sectional opening.

6. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 5 wherein said nozzle closer is comprised of an SMA wire.

7. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 5 wherein said nozzle closer is comprised of a plurality of SMA wires.

8. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 5 wherein said nozzle closer comprises a hydraulic actuator.

9. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 8 wherein said nozzle closer comprises a plurality of hydraulic actuators.

10. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 5 wherein said nozzle closer comprises a wire.

11. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 10 wherein said wire is metallic.

12. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 10 wherein said wire is synthetic.

13. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 6 wherein said nozzle closer further comprises nonconductive SMA standoffs for affixing said SMA wire within said vanes.

14. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a nozzle opener.

15. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 12 wherein said nozzle opener is a spring.

16. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 13 wherein said nozzle opener is a leaf spring.

17. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 12 wherein said nozzle opener is a coil spring.

18-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Amended) A variable area nozzle comprising:

a circumferential support;

a plurality of circumferentially arranged vanes rotatably mounted to said circumferential support;

each of said vanes includes a male tongue portion and a female groove portion;
and,

said male tongue portion of each of said vanes interengages said female groove portion of each adjacent vane;

each of said vanes includes an interior surface and an exterior surface; and,

each of said surfaces of said vanes includes a crowned contour.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Amended) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 29 wherein said vanes are convexly contoured.

32. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 31 wherein said vanes rotate uniformly and concentrically.

33. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 29 wherein said male tongue portion of said vanes seal against said female groove portions of said adjacent vanes.

34. (Currently Amended) A variable area nozzle comprising:

a concentric support;

a plurality of convexly contoured vanes circumferentially and rotatably mounted to said concentric support forming a nozzle ~~infinitely~~ positionable between a first position corresponding to a minimum area nozzle and a second position corresponding to a maximum area nozzle; and,

each of said plurality of convexly contoured vanes engages an adjacent vane sealing said nozzle in a vane to vane sealing arrangement in all positions between and including said first position corresponding to a minimum area nozzle and a second position corresponding to a maximum area nozzle.

35. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 34 in combination with a nacelle of a gas turbine.

36. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 34 in combination with a core of a gas turbine.

37. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 34 in combination with a hydraulic discharge line.

38. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 34 further comprising a closer.

39. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 34 further comprising an opener.

40. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 34 further comprising a rotary damper.

41. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 34 further comprising a rotational brake.

42. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 38 wherein said closer is an SMA wire.

43. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 38 wherein said closer is comprised of a plurality of SMA wires which form an SMA rope.

44. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 38 wherein said closer is a wire.

45. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 38 wherein said closer is comprised of a plurality of wires.

46. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 38 wherein said closer is a hydraulic actuator.

47. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 39 wherein said opener is a spring.

48. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 47 wherein said opener is a leaf spring.

49. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 47 wherein said opener is a coil spring.

50. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 40 wherein said rotary damper is a magneto-rheological fluid device.

51. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 40 wherein said rotational brake is a magneto-rheological brake.

52. (Currently Amended) A variable area nozzle comprising:
a concentric support; and,

a plurality of convexly contoured vanes circumferentially and rotatably mounted to said concentric support forming a nozzle ~~infinitely~~ positionable between a first position corresponding to a minimum area nozzle and a second position corresponding to a maximum area nozzle; each of said plurality of convexly contoured vanes includes a seal which engages an adjacent vane sealing said nozzle in a vane to vane sealing arrangement in all positions between and including said first position corresponding to a minimum area nozzle and a second position corresponding to a maximum area nozzle.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Currently Amended) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim ~~53~~ 52 wherein said seal is a metal seal.

55. (Currently Amended) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim ~~53~~ 52 wherein said seal is a labyrinth seal.

56. (Currently Amended) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim ~~53~~ 52 wherein said seal is a brush seal.

57. (Currently Amended) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim ~~53~~ 52 wherein said seal is a hydrostatic seal.

58. (Currently Amended) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim ~~53~~ 52 wherein said seal is an elastomeric seal.

59. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 52 wherein each of said plurality of convexly contoured vanes reside adjacent and interengage two of said vanes; and, wherein said vanes extend 360 degrees around said concentric support.

60. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 59 wherein said vanes include longitudinal supports and wherein openers act between said supports of adjacent vanes.

61. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 59 wherein said vanes include longitudinal supports and wherein openers are positioned and act between vanes spaced 60 degrees apart.

62. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 61 wherein each of said vanes urge adjacent vanes to rotate concentrically about said concentric support.

63. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 52 wherein each of said convexly contoured vanes has a length, and, said lengths of said convexly contoured vanes varying from vane to vane.

64. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 63 wherein said vanes comprise a leading edge, a trailing edge, an inner surface, an outer surface, and an extender residing between said inner surface and said outer surface and being longitudinally and moveably extendable beyond said trailing edge.

65. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 52 wherein said plurality of vanes includes male vanes and female vanes adjacent said male vanes.

66. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 65 wherein said male and female vanes each include reciprocal tongues and grooves.

67. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 66 wherein said male and female vanes each include an interior and an exterior.

68. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 67 wherein: said interior of said male vanes includes a tongue; said interior of said female vanes includes a groove; said exterior of said male vanes includes a groove and said exterior of said female vanes includes a tongue; said tongues of said interior of said male vane interengage said grooves of said interior of said female vanes; said tongues of said exterior of said female vanes interengage said grooves of said exterior of said male vanes; said male vanes include a main groove and a main tongue; said female vanes include a main groove and main tongue; and, said main tongues of said male and female vanes interengage said main grooves of said male and female vanes.

69. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 66 wherein said tongues and said grooves of said male and female vanes comprise a metal to metal seal.

70. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 66 wherein said tongues and said grooves of said male and female vanes comprise a labyrinth seal.

71. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 66 further comprising an elastomeric seal proximate each tongue and groove of each said male and female vanes.

72. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 66 further comprising a hydrostatic seal proximate each tongue and groove of each said male and female vanes.

73. (Original) A variable area nozzle as claimed in claim 66 further comprising a brush seal proximate each tongue and groove of each said male and female vanes.

74. (Currently Amended) A variable area nozzle comprising:
a concentric support;
a plurality of convexly contoured vanes;
each of said convexly contoured vanes has a length, said lengths of said convexly contoured vanes being nonuniform; and,
said plurality of convexly contoured vanes circumferentially and rotatably mounted to said concentric support forming a nozzle ~~infinitely~~ positionable between a first position corresponding to a minimum area nozzle and a second position corresponding to a maximum area nozzle.

75-89. (Cancelled)

90. (Currently Amended) A variable area nozzle for use in a gas turbine engine comprising:

a support;
a plurality of vanes rotatably moveable with respect to said support forming an ~~infinite~~ number of frustum-shaped conic sections between an area of minimum cross section to an area of maximum cross section; and,

each of said vanes is rotatable with respect to said support; each of said vanes includes an interior surface and an exterior surface; each of said surfaces of said vanes includes a crowned contour.

91-92 (Cancelled).

93. (Currently Amended) A variable area nozzle comprising:

a support;

a plurality of substantially trapezoidally shaped vanes circumferentially and rotatably mounted to said support forming a nozzle ~~infinitely~~ positionable between a first position corresponding to a minimum area nozzle and a second position corresponding to a maximum area nozzle;

each of said trapezoidally shaped vanes is rotatable with respect to said support; each of said trapezoidally shaped vanes includes an interior surface and an exterior surface; each of said surfaces of said trapezoidally shaped vanes includes a crowned contour; and,

each of said plurality of said substantially trapezoidally shaped vanes engages an adjacent vane creating a dual seal; said nozzle being sealed in all positions between and including said first position corresponding to a minimum area nozzle and said second position corresponding to a maximum area nozzle.